

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for validating a message in a message queuing environment wherein the message is validated before the message is sent to a recipient program.
2. The method of claim 1 comprising:
  - installing a message validation program on a computer;
  - wherein the message validation program performs steps comprising:
    - acquiring the message;
    - analyzing the message;
    - determining whether the message is valid; and
    - responsive to the determination that the message is valid, forwarding the message to a message queue for distribution to the recipient program.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the steps further comprise:
  - responsive to the determination that the message is not valid, indicating an error to a sender program without forwarding the message to the message queue for distribution to the recipient program.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of analyzing the message comprises:
  - comparing the message to a validating criteria;
  - wherein the validating criteria specifies a data that the recipient program will accept;
  - and
  - wherein the message is valid only if the data in the message matches the validating criteria.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the message comprises a message header and a message body and wherein the step of analyzing the message further comprises:
  - comparing the message header to the validating criteria;
  - comparing the message body to the validating criteria; and
  - wherein the message is valid only if the data in the message header and the message body match the validating criteria.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the comparing the message header to the validating criteria step comprises:
  - comparing a message property to a validating criteria property; and
  - wherein the message is valid only if the message property matches the validating criteria property.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the comparing the message header to the validating criteria step comprises:
  - comparing a message value to a validating criteria value; and
  - wherein the message is valid only if the message value matches the validating criteria value.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the comparing the message body to the validating criteria step comprises:
  - comparing a message type to a validating criteria type; and
  - wherein the message is valid only if the message type matches the validating criteria type.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the comparing the message body to the validating criteria step comprises:

comparing a message character set to a validating criteria character set; and  
wherein the message is valid only if the message character set matches the validating  
criteria character set.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the comparing the message body to the validating criteria  
step comprises:

comparing a message format to a validating criteria format; and  
wherein the message is valid only if the message format matches the validating  
criteria format.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the message is validated by the sender program.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the message is validated by a message queue manager.

13. A program product for validating a message in a message queuing environment wherein the  
message is validated before the message is sent to a recipient program.

14. The program product claim 13 comprising:

a memory;  
wherein the memory comprises instructions for a computer to perform steps  
comprising:  
acquiring the message;  
analyzing the message;  
determining whether the message is valid; and  
responsive to the determination that the message is valid, forwarding the  
message to a message queue for distribution to the recipient program.

15. The program product of claim 14 wherein the steps further comprise:

responsive to the determination that the message is not valid, indicating an error to a sender program without forwarding the message to the message queue for distribution to the recipient program.

16. The program product of claim 14 wherein the step of analyzing the message comprises:

comparing the message to a validating criteria;

wherein the validating criteria specifies a data that the recipient program will accept;

and

wherein the message is valid only if the data in the message matches the validating criteria.

17. The program product of claim 16 wherein the message comprises a message header and a message body and wherein the step of analyzing the message further comprises:

comparing the message header to the validating criteria;

comparing the message body to the validating criteria; and

wherein the message is valid only if the data in the message header and the message body match the validating criteria.

18. The program product of claim 17 wherein the comparing the message header to the validating criteria step comprises:

comparing a message property to a validating criteria property; and

wherein the message is valid only if the message property matches the validating criteria property.

19. The program product of claim 17 wherein the comparing the message header to the validating criteria step comprises:

comparing a message value to a validating criteria value; and

wherein the message is valid only if the message value matches the validating criteria value.

20. The program product of claim 17 wherein the comparing the message body to the validating criteria step comprises:

comparing a message type to a validating criteria type; and

wherein the message is valid only if the message type matches the validating criteria type.

21. The program product of claim 17 wherein the comparing the message body to the validating criteria step comprises:

comparing a message character set to a validating criteria character set; and

wherein the message is valid only if the message character set matches the validating criteria character set.

22. The program product of claim 17 wherein the comparing the message body to the validating criteria step comprises:

comparing a message format to a validating criteria format; and

wherein the message is valid only if the message format matches the validating criteria format.

23. The program product of claim 14 wherein the message is validated by the sender program.

24. The program product of claim 14 wherein the message is validated by a message queue manager.

25. An apparatus for validating a message in a message queuing environment wherein the message is validated before the message is sent to a recipient program, the apparatus comprising:

acquiring the message;

comparing the message header to the validating criteria;

comparing the message body to the validating criteria; and

wherein the validating criteria specifies a data that the recipient program will accept;

comparing a message property to a validating criteria property;

wherein the message is valid only if the message property matches the validating criteria property;

comparing a message value to a validating criteria value;

wherein the message is valid only if the message value matches the validating criteria value;

comparing a message type to a validating criteria type;

wherein the message is valid only if the message type matches the validating criteria type;

comparing a message character set to a validating criteria character set;

wherein the message is valid only if the message character set matches the validating criteria character set;

comparing a message format to a validating criteria format;

wherein the message is valid only if the message format matches the validating criteria format;

determining whether the message is valid;

responsive to the determination that the message is valid, forwarding the message to a message queue for distribution to the recipient program; and

responsive to the determination that the message is not valid, indicating an error to a sender program without forwarding the message to the message queue for distribution to the recipient program.

26. The method of claim 10 wherein the message is validated by the sender program.

27. The method of claim 10 wherein the message is validated by a message queue manager.